



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

GREGORY G. LOCKHART
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

602 Federal Building • 200 West Second Street • Dayton, OH 45402

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Contact: Fred Alverson
(614) 469-2057 Ext. 1604

JURY CONVICTS WEST DAYTON MAN OF GUN, DRUG CRIMES

DAYTON -- A United States District Court jury here has convicted Jerome Hassan Mackey, age 24, of Dayton's west side on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Each count carries a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and Dayton Police Director Julian Davis announced the verdict returned late Monday at the conclusion of a week-long trial presided over by Senior United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

According to testimony presented during the trial, Dayton Police officers arrested Mackey on May 25, 2004 when they raided a drug house on Dayton's west side. Police found Mackey standing with his arms over the kitchen sink. In the sink, officers found a rather distinctive .357 magnum pistol. Next to the sink, officers found marijuana packaged for sale along with loose marijuana, cash, and a digital scale. Officers also found Mackey's cell phone. When the phone rang, a picture of the gun that was in the sink popped up on the phone's screen.

"This case was moved to federal court as part of a program known as Project Safe Neighborhoods," Lockhart said. "This national initiative encourages federal prosecution of repeat criminal offenders with guns when federal penalties are more harsh than state penalties. It sends the message that gun crime equals hard time." Lockhart noted that Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mathias H. Heck, Jr. plays a key role in Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Judge Rice will set a date for sentencing. Mackey will remain in custody until sentencing.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by Dayton Police officers and ATF agents, including ATF Special Agent David McMullen, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Vipal J. Patel who prosecuted the case.

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